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ANNUAL REPORT

1959.

On the Health of the
Rural Sanitary District
of the
Isle of Wight

BY

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Medical Officer of Health.





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ANNUAL REPORT
on the
HEALTH OF THE RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT
of the
ISLE OF WIGHT.

County Hall,
Newport,
Isle of Wight.
Tel: Newport 2261.

To the Members of the Isle of Wight Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1959.

The Birth Rate rose from 13.1 to 13.5.

The Still Birth Rate fell from 25.4 to 16.6.

The Death Rate fell from 14.6 to 13.7.

The Infantile Mortality rate fell from 26.1 to 16.9.

The number of deaths from cancer remained much the same at 40.

Again this year the number of deaths from cancer of the breast was 2.

Heart disease was certified as the cause of death in 79 cases compared with 90 in the previous year.

During the year only one case of suicide was reported.

There was no death from tuberculosis, syphilis, diphtheria, whooping cough, measles, meningitis or poliomyelitis.

Notifications of food poisoning fell from 53 to 4.

367 cases of measles occurred but it was necessary to admit only one case to hospital.

Sonne Dysentery.

Sonne dysentery cases occurred in a scattered manner throughout the year. In April a school child who had been ill with diarrhoea, vomiting and fever was found to be suffering from Sonne dysentery. Following investigations carried out on her contacts it was found that her brother and sister had recently had a similar illness and still were excreting Sonne dysentery organisms. Her father, although well was also excreting the germ. As the father was employed as a milker at a farm it was necessary to put him off dairy work until he was clear of infection, in order to safeguard the health of the public.

It was necessary to take similar action in the case of an infected baker's roundsman, and in the case of an infected children's nurse from London.

Sewage Contamination of Bathing Beaches.

During the past ten years, increasing attention has centred on the discharge of sewage into coastal waters. This practice has been widely criticized on the grounds that sewage-polluted sea water is a health hazard to bathers. Demands are consequently made for more elaborate or even for full treatment of the sewage of coastal towns so as to offset this risk. The presumption that such a risk exists has, however, not been supported by adequate bacteriological or epidemiological evidence. Both Medical Officers of Health and Public Health Engineers have pressed for detailed studies of the subject on which a rational policy could be based.

In 1953, the Public Health Laboratory Service set up a committee with the following terms of reference: (i) to study the contamination of coastal bathing beaches by sewage; (ii) to assess the risk to health of bathing in sewage-polluted sea water; (iii) to consider the practicability of laying down bacteriological standards for bathing beaches or of grading them according to the degree of pollution to which they are exposed.

Summary.

1.—Bacteriological surveys of more than forty popular bathing beaches around the coasts of England and Wales have been made during the past five years. The great majority of the beaches studied were subject to contamination with sewage.

2.—A rough grading of the beaches studied gave a similar ranking order whether the results of the presumptive coliform test or faecal coli counts were used as the basis of grading.

3.—Grading of beaches was valid only when surveys were carefully planned to ensure representative sampling from the areas on the beaches concerned where bathing actually took place.

4.—The coliform test as used in the bacteriological examination of drinking waters was the main test procedure used but had certain limitations. Promising results with plate counts on relatively non-inhibitory media were obtained.

5.—Various salmonella serotypes, notably salmonella paratyphi B, were isolated in small numbers from a high proportion of sea-water samples. The proportion of positive results for salmonella isolation increased from 13.3% in samples with less than 1,000 coliform organisms per 100 ml. to 40.1% in samples with over 10,000 coliforms per 100 ml. Comparison of the numbers of salmonellae isolated with what is known of the minimum infective doses of these organisms suggested that very large volumes of sea water would require to be ingested for infection to occur.

6.—Polio virus was not isolated from a small series of sea-water samples examined. Because of the very large dilution factor, special concentration procedures would probably be required to isolate this virus from sea water.

7.—Four cases of paratyphoid fever probably due to bathing were recorded. Surveys of the two associated beaches had given median presumptive coliform counts of more than 10,000 per 100 ml., and both showed gross macroscopic pollution with sewage.

8.—A statistically controlled study of the bathing histories of 150 poliomyelitis cases in children living permanently by the seaside gave no evidence that bathing had played any part in causing the disease.

General Conclusions.

The following general conclusions were drawn as a result of the investigations reported :

(i) That bathing in sewage-polluted sea water carries only a negligible risk to health, even on beaches that are aesthetically very unsatisfactory.

(ii) That the minimal risk attending such bathing is probably associated with chance contact with intact aggregates of faecal material that happen to have come from infected persons.

(iii) That the isolation of pathogenic organisms from sewage-contaminated sea water is more important as evidence of an existing hazard in the populations from which the sewage is derived than as evidence of a further risk of infection in bathers.

(iv) That, since a serious risk of contracting disease through bathing in sewage-polluted sea water is probably not incurred unless the water is so fouled as to be aesthetically revolting, public health requirements would seem to be reasonably met by a general policy of improving grossly insanitary bathing waters and of preventing so far as possible the pollution of bathing beaches with undisintegrated faecal matter during the bathing season.

Material gain or Infant Welfare: The problem of working mothers with young children.

There is more than one way of being cruel to a child. The more frank and obvious forms of cruelty are capable of being punished and the punishment inflicted by the Courts has, added to it, social ostracization. Again it is in respect of the deliberate or neglectful form of cruelty that action is almost invariably taken. Good intentions are taken into consideration and the genuine motivating force distilled from the frequently conflicting cloud of emotional forces tends to obscure a clear and unbiased view.

One form of neglect and one which is calculated to produce an immense amount of suffering, if not permanent damage to the personality on a subconscious level, is involved in the employment of married women with young children.

When a woman's family is grown up it may well be a good thing for her and indirectly, her family's mental health if she obtains some form of occupation outside the home, not necessarily a gainful occupation. The picture and effect is quite different where there are young children in the home.

It is believed to be an essential for mental health that the infant and young child should experience a warm, intimate and continuous relationship with his mother. If this relationship is in fact established the emotions of anxiety and guilt, which when present in excess characterize certain forms of mental ill health, will develop in a moderate and controlled way.

When this occurs the child's emotions will remain at moderate strength and remain within the control of his developing personality. Any state of affairs in which this relationship does not or ceases, to exist produces deprivation effects which are reflected in various behaviour disorders and ultimately neurosis and instability of character.

It has been clearly shown that anxieties arising in early childhood predispose the children to respond in an anti-social way to later stresses. No amount of material gain is of the slightest value when it is bought at the expense of a child's unhappiness.

What is the effect on the young mind of returning home from school to an empty house, often a cold house, a house without a fire and without the most potent source of the family's warmth and comfort, the mother? In my opinion the amount of damage inflicted in this way may be incalculable.

There is another result of the mother going out to work. It is becoming increasingly obvious that in far too many cases young children in the infant schools are being sent back to school after an illness many days before they should be.

Teachers are distressed at the condition of some of these children and take it upon themselves, entirely in the interest of the child, to exclude such a child until it is fit. In all such cases it has been found that the mother goes out to work and the child is returned to school primarily to suit her convenience.

In certain cases it may be true that a mother is not able to recognise that the child is unwell. On the whole mothers may be divided into two classes with a minority in each. At one end of the scale is the over-anxious mother who coddles her child too much, while at the other end is the mother who seems incapable of recognising the milder and more serious forms of ill health, perhaps being in culpable ignorance.

The majority of mothers fortunately present a well-balanced degree of knowledge in respect of the health and well-being of their children.

There does not seem any doubt that there is a need for girls in the last year at Secondary School to have lectures on Child Care and Homecraft and for their interest to be so stimulated

that when entering upon motherhood they will willingly attend the talks and demonstrations given by the Health Visitors at the Welfare Clinics.

Sudden Death in Babies.

Considerable research is being undertaken on the problem of unexpected deaths in infants. One worker has succeeded in showing that reaction to milk could be produced experimentally in animals which closely resembled the post mortem findings in infants who were presumed to have died from suffocation or infection.

This work is of great importance because of the extreme distress caused to parents of children who have been recorded as dying of suffocation, and the overt guilt which the parents naturally feel on such a finding when a child is found dead in a cot or pram.

Cigarette Smoking.

Few doctors and perhaps few laymen would seriously question the existence of one or more causative lines between cigarette smoking and much of the disease occurring in the lung, not necessarily cancer. There is a strong association between chronic bronchitis and cigarette smoking and the smoking of cigarettes may well be a cause of the breakdown of healed tuberculosis in the lung.

It is also suspected that other body systems may be likewise harmed, for example there is strong evidence to suggest that heavy cigarette smoking may contribute to or accelerate the development of disease of the coronary arteries.

Housing.

I would like to record how co-operative the Council have been in giving sympathetic hearing to my appeals for housing for problem families and other special cases.

On one occasion the housing plight of a lady in your area was a serious contributory factor to her mental breakdown necessitating admission to a mental hospital. I have constant liaison with psychiatrists, psychiatric social workers and others in the mental health field. As a result, through your help, this particular family was reunited, the patient was keenly aware of her community interest and the welfare and great improvement in her physical and mental health followed the solution of her acute housing problem.

I am glad, once more, to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their unfailing kindness and support during the year, and my staff for their loyal co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN MILLS,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1959.

Medical Officer of Health :

John Mills, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (Eng.),

L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.

Public Health Inspectors :—

C. V. Smith, M.R.S.H., M.A.R.D.C.S.

L. J. Lewis, A.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar General's figures)	17,500
Area (in acres)	58,127
Number of habitable houses end of 1959	6,575
Rateable Value, as at 31st March, 1959	£234,800
Sum represented by a penny rate (1958-59)	£892

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	13.5
Comparative factor	1.15
Comparative Birth rate	15.5
Still Birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	16.6
Crude Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	13.7
Comparative factor	0.76
Comparative Death rate	10.4
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 (live and still births)	4.1
Death rate of infants under one year of age :—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	16.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	17.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	40

CAUSES OF DEATH.

<i>Cause.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	17
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
Diabetes	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	13	25
Coronary disease, angina	18	13
Hypertension with heart disease	1	2
Other heart disease	22	23
Other circulatory disease	4	7
Influenza	4	2
Pneumonia	7	6
Bronchitis	5	—
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1
Congenital malformations	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	13	11
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
All other accidents	5	2
Suicide	—	1
Other violent causes	—	—
All causes	117	122

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total cases notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to hospital</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Measles	367	1	—
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	4	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	—
Erysipelas	6	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	10	—	13*
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	9	—	—
Acute Inf. Encephalitis	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute } Paralytic Poliomyelitis } Non Paralytic	—	—	—
Dysentery	7	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	1	—	—
Totals	403	2	13

* This figure includes certain types of Pneumonia which are not notifiable.

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

<i>Age.</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Diphtheria</i>	<i>Puerperal Pyrexia</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>	<i>Meningococcal Infection</i>	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Erysipelas</i>	<i>Acute Poliomyelitis</i>	<i>Food Poisoning</i>	<i>Ophthalmia Neonatorum</i>	<i>Dysentery</i>	<i>Paratyphoid Fevers</i>
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	1	—	19	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 " " 3	—	—	—	—	—	29	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
3 " " 4	—	—	—	—	—	33	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
4 " " 5	1	—	—	—	—	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 " " 10	2	—	—	—	—	212	6	—	—	—	—	1	—
10 " " 15	—	—	—	—	—	27	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
15 " " 20	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
20 " " 35	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
35 " " 45	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
45 " " 65	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	3	—	—	10	1	367	9	6	—	4	—	7	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.					Deaths.				
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
	Totals	M.	F.	M.	F.	Totals	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 „ „ 10	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 „ „ 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 „ „ 20	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 „ „ 25	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 „ „ 35	3	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35 „ „ 45	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 „ „ 55	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 „ „ 65	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	*16	7	7	—	2	—	—	—	—	—

* Included in this total are four transfers from the mainland.

**PRINCIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH LEGISLATION
COMING INTO OPERATION IN 1959 INCLUDE
THE FOLLOWING :**

The Fabrics (Misdescription) Regulations, 1959.

Slaughterhouses Reports (Appointed Day) Order, 1959.

Slaughterhouses (Reports) Direction, 1959.

The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958.

The Meat (Staining and Sterilization) Regulations, 1959.

The Meat (Staining and Sterilization (Revocation)),
Regulations, 1959.

The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) (Amendment) Regulations,
1959.

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regula-
tions, 1958.

The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1959.

Housing (Underground Rooms) Act, 1959.

EAST WIGHT.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Public water supplies over the whole area are provided by the Isle of Wight Water Board—an Authority which is responsible for supplies to the whole Island.

The improved supply to the Hillway area of Bembridge effected a considerable improvement in the pressure at the Whitecliff Bay Camping Site. During the season no complaints were received by the Public Health Department of the Rural District Council.

The Hale Common area of Arreton continued to give rise to complaint as a main supply is not available. This is an area where the cost of a main extension would not be covered by the possible income.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Public conveniences are provided at Bembridge, Brading, Niton and Godshill. All public conveniences are small and are maintained by part-time attendants.

The maintenance of these small conveniences still give rise to some difficulty. The conveniences at The Point, Bembridge—four W.C.s on the ladies side and three W.C.s and an urinal stall on the gentlemen's side—make ample provision for all except peak periods. The sudden arrival of ten-fifteen coaches in the late summer evenings and the lack of consideration by a small number of people, result in conditions that only a full-time attendant can remedy. Additional attention, particularly to the ladies' side, has to be given during the summer evenings.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Main sewerage systems are provided in Apse Heath, Bembridge, Brading, Blackgang, Chillerton, Godshill, Niton and Whitwell.

Blackgang Sewerage.

The provision of a pumping station, rising main, and new sewage purification works has been completed. Formerly, the whole sewage from this area gravitated to a tank at the head of the Chine and after inadequate settlement, discharged through an open ditch running down the centre of the Chine from which it tumbled over an 100 foot cliff to a boggy area near the foreshore. The new scheme leaves this outfall as a storm overflow and provides a pumping station above the existing tank ; sewage is then taken via a rising main to a new sewage purification works some third of a mile from the Chine. The scheme has abated the serious nuisance that has existed for a number of years.

DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE.

Apse Heath—to small Purification Works.

Bembridge—The outfall at the Harbour has been taken out of use by the new scheme that came into operation during the year. By this scheme, all the flow from the centre of the village, which normally discharged into the outfall at the Harbour mouth, has been diverted to a newly constructed pumping station at The Point. From there it is lifted to Swains Road where it discharges into the gravity sewer connected to the Ethel Point outfall. The Ethel Point outfall has been enlarged to take the additional flow. This new system has abated the serious nuisance that has existed in the Harbour mouth for a number of years.

There still remains the risk of discharge on to the foreshore from the Ethel Point outfall. The increased flow into the system naturally increases the risk. The period during which a discharge on to the foreshore is possible is only of about two hours duration in each tide cycle, and then a flow on to the beach only occurs when the wind is from the East. The Council has approved a scheme for the construction of a holder tank to operate during the period of risk and tender

documents were in course of preparation at the end of the year. During the remaining ten hours of each tide cycle, the flow is well off shore. The holder tank will, therefore, provide a permanent remedy to the problem.

Brading—to Sewage Works.

Chillerton—to settlement tanks and land irrigation system. This system, although functioning without trouble, cannot be considered as meeting modern standards.

Godshill—To disposal works.

Niton and Whitwell—To disposal works.

Small Sewage Disposal Plants are provided for a number of the Council's Housing Estates at :—

The Bower, Newchurch
Langbridge, Newchurch
West View, Chale
Hazely Combe, Arreton
Pagham Place, Rookley
Merstone
Southview, Chale Green
St. George's View, Rookley

These small plants are desludged at intervals of 6–9 months and give rise to very little trouble.

Highwood Lane, Rookley:

A system of drainage serving a few cottages in Highwood Lane, Rookley, discharges into a settlement tank and thence by means of an effluent drain into a watercourse.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The refuse collection service continued to function in a satisfactory manner. The service covers the whole district. A weekly collection is given in Brading and Bembridge, and a fortnightly collection in all other parts of the district.

	<i>No. of Vehicles.</i>	<i>Total Mileage.</i>	<i>Disposal of Refuse.</i>
East Wight	One full-time in Bembridge and Brading One spends half time in East Wight, half time in West Wight	13,282	1.—Tip at Yaverland 2.—Tip at Church Lane, Brading 3.—Tip at Bleakdown, Godshell

LITTER BASKETS.

Requests for provision of litter baskets are still on the increase and while there is a desire to meet the demand, emptying is a considerable problem. One would express appreciation of the co-operation of the County Council roadmen in this work. In addition, litter baskets are emptied at times by the R.D.C. refuse collecting staff; while in other cases local residents are paid a small sum annually to attend to baskets in their locality.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE.

East Wight.

The Council do not own a cesspool emptier but hire a machine when required from Ryde, Sandown or Ventnor. A routine service is not in operation but pits are emptied upon application;—

1. If they have not been emptied within the past twelve months.
2. If they are overflowing or are likely to overflow in the near future.

Number of cesspools emptied (cost borne by rate charge)	250
Ditto (applicant bearing cost)	32

In certain cases where soakage into the ground is difficult there have been heavy demands for cesspool emptying. The total demands on the R.D.C. are not sufficient to justify the purchase of an emptying machine. We have to depend on hiring and at times when Ryde, Sandown and Ventnor are busy, delays inevitably occur.

HOSTELS.

East Wight.

Y.H.A. Hostel, Whitwell. Mains Water. Drainage to cesspool. Public refuse collection.

HUTTED CAMPS.

East Wight.

Nil.

HOUSING.

East Wight.

24 new dwellings were erected by the Council during the year in East Wight.

Slum Clearance (East and West Wight).

Number of unfit houses demolished	13
Number of unfit houses closed	13
Number of families rehoused from these unfit houses	15

Improvement Grants.

The Rural District Council continued their policy of making Improvement Grants, and during the year 22 properties were improved under this scheme.

Assisted House Purchase and Loans to carry out repairs.

During 1959 loans were made in respect of the purchase, construction, repair, improvement or alteration of 77 properties. The total amount paid in this respect was £85,160. (These figures relate to East and West Wight).

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS--CAMPING SITES.

Ten licences to use land as sites for moveable dwellings were issued, providing accommodation for approximately 700 caravans.

The main camping area in the East Wight is in Bembridge. One large site accommodating 250-300 caravans is provided with mains water, main drainage, ample public conveniences and showers, and has shop and cafeteria situated upon it. In addition, this site has a large public hall, cinema and camp office. Caravans are owned by various individuals and let weekly throughout the season. This is a well run camp with good service.

One other large camp accommodating about 250 caravans and a number of tents is provided with main sewer, public convenience blocks, and water from stand pipes.

In addition to caravans, there are well over 1,000 members of the Boys' Brigade and other Youth Organisations who set up tented camps in the Bembridge area. There is a good spirit of co-operation between the camp organisers and the R.D.C. officials.

WORK OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

East Wight.

Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	96
Houses re-inspected	...	...	...	...	...	119
Cowstables and dairies	...	...	...	...	...	6
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	...	251
Meat and other foods inspection	...	...	...	...	...	73
Drains and sewers	...	...	...	...	...	150
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	12
Refuse collection	...	...	...	...	...	194
Various	...	...	...	...	...	563
New buildings and alterations	...	...	...	...	...	415
Total number of visits of inspection made	...	...	...	...	...	1879

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, Parts I and VIII administered by the District Council:

East Wight.

1. INSPECTIONS (Part I of the Act).

For purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	34	48	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	28	25	1	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)				-
Total	62	73	1	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found	
	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)		
Unsuitable or Defective	1	1
Total	2	2

PART VIII OF THE ACT (Outwork—Sections 110 and 111).

Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The following table shows the amount of unsound food dealt with during the year :—

Home Killed Meat	...	...	...	142 lb.
Imported Meat	...	...	...	96 lb.
Canned Meat	...	...	...	87 lb.
Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	56 lb.
Other Goods	...	...	...	—

WEST WIGHT.

WATER.

The rainfall for the year was 27.8 inches, and the average water consumption for the West Wight area was 522,627 gallons per day, compared with an average consumption for the previous year of 499,587 gallons per day.

95 samples of both treated and raw water supplies were examined, of which 66 per cent were classified as satisfactory.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Public conveniences are provided at Freshwater Bay, Freshwater (2), Totland, Colwell and at Alum Bay (by arrangement with the Needles Hotel).

New public lavatories at Totland Bay were completed in May, 1959.

All conveniences are well maintained by a full-time attendant.

New public conveniences were completed at Compton Bay near Freshwater, in October, 1959, and these are maintained by a part-time attendant.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Main sewerage systems are provided at Freshwater, Totland, Colwell Bay and Yarmouth.

Disposal of Sewage—

Freshwater : 18in. diameter sea outfall at Norton, extending 700 feet out from shore.

„ (Brambles and Monks area)—Military sewer sea outfall at Linstone Chine.

Totland : 12in. diameter sewer sea outfall discharging 450 feet from shore.

Yarmouth : Sea outfall discharging 500 feet from the shore near end of Yarmouth Pier.

„ 6in. diameter sea outfall taking the drainage of three or four dwellings at the top of the High Street.

Shorwell : By settlement tanks and aeration beds.

The **Brighstone** and **Calbourne Village** sewerage schemes are showing satisfactory progress.

The private sewer from Lord Sherwood's Estate, Brook, was taken over by the Council in October, 1959, as a public sewer.

The Council has for a consideration taken over the Military sewer from Golden Hill Fort and Married Quarters and other properties in the Monks and Brambles area of Freshwater as a public sewer. This sewer has a sea outfall at Linstone Chine which has been in disrepair for several years and is become a considerable liability to the Council. Emergency repairs are in progress and a scheme is being prepared for the diversion of the sewer from Linstone Chine to the main sewer sea outfall.

Small Sewage Purification Plants.

There is a small sewage purification plant at Shalfleet taking the drainage of some twenty Council houses and private properties.

Small sewage purification plants are provided at Porehfield and Thorley housing estates, and there is a small sewage purification plant at Alum Bay dealing with the drainage of the Public Conveniences, the Needles Hotel and tea rooms.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

There is a weekly collection of refuse in the Parishes of Freshwater, Totland and Yarmouth, and a fortnightly collection in all other parishes in the West Wight. Refuse is deposited by controlled tipping on the land reclamation area on the east bank of the River Yar estuary at Yarmouth, the disused clay pit in Copse Lane, Freshwater, and at Churchill's Quarry, Shalfleet.

	<i>No. of Vehicles</i>	<i>Refuse Collected, Cubic yds.</i>	<i>No. of Vehicle Loads</i>	<i>Total Mileage</i>	<i>Disposal of Refuse</i>
West Wight	One 18 cub. yd. used for Freshwater. Totland, and Yarmouth One 12 cub. yd. shared with East Wight	16,500 approx.	1,460	11,172	Yarmouth Land Re- clamation Area; dis- used clay pit, Copse Lane, Freshwater, and Churchill's Quarry, Shalfleet

CESSPIT EMPTYING SERVICE.

Premises are served by a cesspit emptying lorry on hire from Ryde Borough and Ventnor U.D.C.

Total number of cesspits or septic tanks cleansed 130.

HOSTELS.

West Wight.

Weston Manor Hostel, Totland. Mains water supply, main drainage, weekly collection of refuse.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS—CAMPING SITES.

Solent Riviera Camping Site, Thorness (42 caravans). W.C.s. and wash basins to sewage disposal plant. Mains water supply. Refuse destroyed by incineration and periodically collected by Council's vehicle.

West Wight Country Club, Totland (36 caravans). 8 W.C.s, 2 showers and 5 wash basins, with drainage to Council's sewer. Mains water supply. Weekly collection of refuse.

Mountfield Caravan Park, Norton Green, Freshwater (30 caravans). W.C.s, showers and wash basins with drainage to Council's sewer. Mains water supply. Weekly collection of refuse.

Grange Clinc, Brighstone (8 caravans). Mains water supply. Chemical closets. Fortnightly collection of refuse.

The Orchards, Newbridge (14 caravans). Mains water supply. Septic tank drainage. Fortnightly collection of refuse.

Compton Farm, Brook (12 caravans). Mains water supply. Toilet block with septic tank drainage. Fortnightly collection of refuse.

In addition to caravans, it is estimated that about 500 members of the Boys' Brigade and other Youth Organisations set up tented camps at Cliff End Fort, Freshwater, Totland Recreation Ground and at Norton.

HOUSING.

Six new dwellings were erected by the Council during the year in West Wight.

Private houses erected in **East** and **West** Wight—48.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

See East Wight Report.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS AND HOUSE PURCHASE LOANS.

During the year 32 properties in the West Wight were improved under the Improvement Grant Scheme.

See East Wight Report for figures in connection with House Purchase loans.

WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

West Wight.

Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	120
Houses re-inspected	...	...	...	...	...	315
Cowstables and dairies	...	...	...	...	...	2
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	...	70
Meat and other foods inspection	...	...	...	...	...	40
Drains and sewers	...	...	...	...	...	380
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	10
Refuse collection	...	...	...	...	...	260
Various	...	...	...	...	...	360
New buildings and alterations	...	...	...	...	...	660
Total number of visits of inspection made	...	...	...	...	...	2217

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, Parts I and VIII administered by the District Council.

West Wight.**1. INSPECTIONS (Part I of the Act).**

For purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	63	15	2	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	25	2	1	
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)				
Total	88	17	3	

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>No of cases in which defects were found</i>	
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	1	1
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)		
Sanitary conveniences unsuitable or defective (S.7)	2	2
Total	3	3

PART VIII OF THE ACT (Outwork—Sections 110 and 111).

Number of out-workers—25.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The following table shows the amount of unsound food dealt with during the year :—

Home Killed Meat	...	...	...	...	9 lb.
Imported Meat	...	...	...	...	150 lb.
Canned Meat	...	...	...	...	45 lb.
Other Goods	...	...	...	...	Nil

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACTS,
1944.

Number of samples taken for T.B. during the year						
1959	...	...	...	...	...	182
Number of samples found to be positive	...	...				3
Number of samples in which <i>Brucella Abortus</i> was isolated	...	...	...	...	...	8

